

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A conferencing method comprising:
 - receiving first conference-endpoint data for a first conference type from a first endpoint;
 - reading a conference type identifier from a memory, the conference type identifier specifying a second conference type for a second endpoint participating in a conference with the first endpoint;
 - determining whether the second conference type is different than the first conference type;
 - selecting a conversion program based on whether the second conference type is different than the first conference type;
 - reading an endpoint identifier for the first endpoint;
 - selecting a conversion parameter for the conversion program based on the endpoint identifier;
 - initiating execution of the conversion program specifying the conversion parameter on the first conference-endpoint data to prepare converted first conference-endpoint data compatible with the second conference type from the first conference-endpoint data, wherein the conversion program is configured to utilize aiding data to enhance the conversion of the first conference-endpoint data;
 - transmitting the first conference-endpoint data to the second endpoint; and
 - transmitting the converted first conference-endpoint data to the first endpoint and the second endpoint.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, where the first conference type is a text messaging conference, and where the second conference type is a voice conference.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program comprises initiating execution of a text-to-speech translator.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program comprises initiating execution of a speech-to-text translator.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, where the act of transmitting comprises transmitting the converted first conference-endpoint data and a first endpoint identifier to the second endpoint.
6. (cancelled)
7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving second conference-endpoint data for the second conference type
from the second endpoint;
preparing converted second conference-endpoint data compatible with the
first conference type from the second conference-endpoint data; and
transmitting the second converted conference-endpoint data to the first
endpoint.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, where the act of initiating execution of the conversion program comprises initiating execution of a text-to-speech translator, and further comprising the act of selecting a voice for at least one of the first and second endpoints.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, where at least one of the first conference type and second conference type is at least one of a decentralized text messaging conference and a centralized text messaging conference.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1,
where reading an endpoint identifier comprises: reading a name indicia that identifies the source of the first conference-endpoint data; and
where: the conversion parameter comprises a voice model conversion parameter that distinguishes between male and female voice production.

11. (currently amended) A conferencing system comprising:
 - a memory comprising:
 - first conference-endpoint data for a first conference type received from a first endpoint;
 - a conference type identifier specifying a second conference type for a second endpoint participating in a conference with the first endpoint; and
 - a conversion program operable to prepare converted first endpoint data compatible with the second conference type from the first conference endpoint data, wherein the conversion program is configured to utilize aiding data to enhance the conversion of the first conference-endpoint data, and
 - a processor operable to determine whether the second conference type is different than the first conference type and to execute the conversion program when the second conference type is different than the first conference type, andwhere the processor initiates transmission of the converted first endpoint data to the first endpoint and second endpoint and transmission of the first conference-endpoint data to the second endpoint.
12. (original) The conferencing system of claim 11, where the first conference type is a text messaging conference, and where the second conference type is a voice conference.
13. (original) The conferencing system of claim 11, where the conversion program comprises at least one of a text-to-speech translator and a speech-to-text translator.

14. (original) The conferencing system of claim 11, where the conversion program comprises a text-to-speech translator, and where the memory further comprises a speech-to-text translator.
15. (original) The conferencing system of claim 14, where:
the memory further comprises second conference-endpoint data for the
second conference type received from the second endpoint; and
where the processor executes the text-to-speech translator on the first
conference-endpoint data to prepare the converted first conference-
endpoint data, and executes the speech-to-text translator on the
second conference-endpoint data to prepare converted second
conference-endpoint data.
16. (previously presented) The conferencing system of claim 15, where the
processor initiates transmission of the converted second-endpoint data to the
first endpoint.
17. (original) The conferencing system of claim 11, where the processor initiates
transmission of the converted first-endpoint data and a first endpoint identifier
to the second endpoint.
18. (original) The conferencing system of claim 11, where the first conference
type is at least one of a centralized and decentralized instant messaging
conference, and where the processor is operable to initiate transmission of
the converted first endpoint data according to a pre-selected instant
messaging protocol.
19. (original) The conferencing system of claim 11, where the conversion program
is a text-to-speech translator, and where the memory further comprises voice
data for a voice for at least one of the first and second endpoints.

20. (previously presented) The conferencing system of claim 11,
where the processor is further operable to filter, according to a filter criteria,
the first conference-endpoint data, the second conference-endpoint
data, or both to eliminate endpoint data that would otherwise be
communicated to the first endpoint, the second endpoint, or both; and
where the filter criteria comprises an n–loudest filter criteria for processing
only endpoint data only from n–loudest endpoints connected to a
conference, including the first and second endpoints.
21. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions
that cause a data processing system to perform a method comprising the acts
of:
retrieving first conference-endpoint data for a first conference type received
from a first endpoint from a memory;
determining a second conference type for a second endpoint participating in a
conference with the first endpoint;
determining whether the second conference type is different than the first
conference type;
initiating preparation of converted first-endpoint data compatible with the
second conference type from the first conference-endpoint data when
the second conference type is different than the first conference type,
wherein the preparation of converted first-endpoint data utilizes aiding
data to enhance the conversion of the first conference-endpoint data;
initiating transmission of the converted first-endpoint data to the first endpoint
and the second endpoint; and
initiating transmission the first conference-endpoint data to the second
endpoint.

22. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, further comprising:
decoding the first conference-endpoint data with a first Coder / Decoder (CODEC) to obtain decoded first conference-endpoint data; and
negotiating with the second endpoint to determine the specific CODEC for the second endpoint,
where initiating preparation includes recoding the decoded first conference-endpoint data by applying a specific CODEC, different than the first CODEC, on the decoded first conference-endpoint data.
23. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, where the act of initiating preparation comprises initiating execution of at least one of a text-to-speech translator and a speech-to-text translator.
24. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, further comprising:
retrieving second conference-endpoint data for the second conference type from the memory; and
initiating preparation of converted second-endpoint data compatible with the first conference type from the second conference-endpoint data; and
initiating transmission of the converted second-endpoint data to the first endpoint.
25. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, where transmitting further comprises transmitting a first endpoint identifier to the second endpoint.
26. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, where the second conference type is an instant messaging conference and where initiating transmission comprises initiating transmission of the converted first-endpoint data according to a pre-selected instant messaging protocol.

27. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, where the act of initiating preparation comprises initiating execution of a text-to-speech translator, and further comprising the act of selecting a voice for at least one of the first and second endpoints.
28. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, where at least one of the first conference type and second conference type is at least one of a decentralized text messaging conference and a centralized text messaging conference.
29. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, further comprising reading an endpoint identifier and establishing aiding data for speech-to-text translation associated with the endpoint identifier.
30. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the aiding data includes a dictionary representative of common vocabulary.
31. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the aiding data includes an identifier associated with a participant at the first endpoint.
32. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein the aiding data includes a dictionary representative of common vocabulary.
33. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein the aiding data includes an identifier associated with a participant at the first endpoint.
34. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the aiding data includes a dictionary representative of common vocabulary.
35. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the aiding data includes an identifier associated with a participant at the first endpoint.